

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: GERSHWIN FESTIVAL: MATTOS/MANDEL VISIT

USIA FOR IEE, ICS; STATE FOR CU/EE.

1. EDWARD MATTOS (ICS/D), GERSHWIN SPECIALIST AND PIANIST, AND ALAN MANDEL, PIANIST, VISITED MOSCOW DECEMBER 13-21 IN CONNECTION WITH POST'S MONTHLY CULTURAL PROGRAM DEVOTED TO 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE GERSHWIN'S BIRTH. THEY PRESENTED AN ILLUSTRATED TWO-PIANO CONCERT WITH COMMENTARY, "GERSHWIN YEARS: WORDS WITH MUSIC," DECEMBER 17 AT SPASO HOUSE FOR AN INVITATIONAL AUDIENCE WHICH WAS OCCASIONALLY MOVED TO INTERRUPT PROGRAM WITH WARM APPLAUSE.

2. DECEMBER 18 AN UNUSUAL SESSION OF GIVE AND TAKE TOOK PLACE AT USSR UNION OF COMPOSERS WHERE MATTOS AND MANDEL PERFORMED GERSHWIN AND OTHER SELECTIONS IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM GATHERED MUSIC SPECIALISTS, MUSICIANS AND COMPOSERS. ATMOSPHERE WAS INTIMATE WITH MUSIC INTERSPERSED WITH QUESTIONS. SOLO VIOLINIST FROM MOSCOW PHILHARMONIC WAS MOVED TO PICK UP HIS VIOLIN AND PLAY HIS OWN ARRANGEMENT OF RHAPSODY FROM "PORGY AND BESS." THIS PROMPTED OTHERS IN AUDIENCE TO TAKE THEIR TURN AT PIANO. MATTOS AND MANDEL ALSO TOOK TURNS*PERFORMING MODERN AMERICAN MUSIC.

3. DECEMBER 19 SRO AUDIENCE OF 150 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF MOSCOW CONSERVATORY LISTENED WITH RAPT ATTENTION TO
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FINAL GERSHWIN YEARS PRESENTATION WHICH CLOSED TO

RHYTHMIC APPLAUSE AND CARNATIONS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED
BY SMALL TEA PARTY GIVEN BY CONSERVATORY OFFICIALS.

4. MINCULT, COMPOSERS' UNION AND MOSCOW CONSERVATORY
EXCEEDINGLY COOPERATIVE THROUGHOUT. VISIT BY MATTOS AND
MANDEL AND OTHER SUPPORT BY AGENCY ON OVERALL GERSHWIN
PROGRAM VERY MUCH APPRECIATED, WHICH CONSTITUTED SUCCESSFUL
BEGINNING TO POST'S MONTHLY CULTURAL PLAN. CONTACTS WITH
KEY INSTITUTIONS WELL AND WARMLY ESTABLISHED.

5. AIRGRAM ON ENTIRE GERSHWIN FESTIVAL WILL FOLLOW SHOWING
OF "AMERICAN IN PARIS" AT SPASO JANUARY 10.SOMMERLATTE

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